

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1873 without my signature.

California's Safe Surrender Law provides an emergency alternative for a woman in crisis who, statistics show, may otherwise abandon, abuse, or kill her baby. The current 72-hour period contained in California statutes allows for a "no questions asked" safe surrender of a newborn and is supported by research and statistics that indicate that most neonaticide occurs within the first day. Some experts have raised concerns about this bill, which I share, that instead of improving child safety, increasing the time that a baby may be surrendered from 72-hours to 30-days, will have the opposite effect, putting newborns in greater risk by keeping them in an unsafe environment without proper care and supervision.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger